

## **Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



72 2572  
Cap 2

# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 20, 1951 SS-100

## Acreage May Top Last Year by 8 Million

Principal crops planted or grown in 1951 are roughly estimated to total nearly 366 million acres. This estimate allows for duplications and numerous crops not yet surveyed, including cotton at the Department's "guide" acreage. Such a total for this year would top 1950 by about 8 million acres. Except for 1949, it would be the largest acreage since 1933. No estimates relating to 1951 cotton production will be issued until July 9.

## Spring Crop Acreage Uncertain at Present

Present indicated acreage of 17 spring-planted crops is 275½ million acres compared with 280 million last year. Greater than usual shifts among crops following the March report may occur this year, however. A major reason may be shifts toward the Department's acreage guides, details of which had not reached individual farmers when they reported their intentions. Many farmers will change their acreage plans after studying the March prospective plantings report, main purpose of which is to assist farmers in making plans for the year's acreage.

## 1951 Prospective Acreages Compared With 1950

### (17 Spring-planted Crops)

Corn, all	85,694,000 acres	UP 2 percent
All spring wheat	21,850,000 "	UP 18 percent
Oats	44,191,000 "	DOWN 5 percent
Barley	11,413,000 "	DOWN 14 percent
Flaxseed	3,921,000 "	DOWN 3 percent
Rice	1,931,000 "	UP 19 percent
Sorghums	12,540,000 "	DOWN 24 percent
Potatoes	1,590,000 "	DOWN 15 percent
Sweetpotatoes	444,000 "	DOWN 22 percent
Tobacco 1/	1,745,000 "	UP 10 percent
Beans, dry edible	1,664,000 "	UP 2 percent
Peas, dry field	244,000 "	UP 2 percent
Soybeans 2/	13,772,000 "	DOWN 6 percent
Cowpeas 2/	941,000 "	DOWN 14 percent
Peanuts 2/	2,614,000 "	DOWN 5 percent
Hay 1/	75,656,000 "	LITTLE change
Sugar beets	887,000 "	DOWN 12 percent

1/ Acreage harvested 2/ Grown alone for all purposes

## Big Wheat Acreage

Winter wheat acreage, sown last fall, totals 56 million acres compared with 53 million acres previous fall. This increase in wheat plus an expected increase in cotton acreage largely explains why we may have a record or near-record planted acreage, despite the indicated reduction now in spring-planted crops. Planted acreage of all wheat is indicated at 78 million acres, up from last year by 9 percent. Spring wheat acreage, nearly 22 million, is up about 18 percent from last year.

## Spring Progress About Normal

Spring farming activities were about normal on March 1. Soil moisture mostly satisfactory, except in a large area in the Southwest. Irrigation water, adequate in northern areas, tapers to very poor, especially in New Mexico and Arizona

## Corn Belt Acreage Assures Plentiful Feed Grains

The high-yielding Corn Belt will have 3 million more acres in corn this year than last. Oats, barley, and sorghum acreages are below last year. At the 1945-49 average yields, prospective feed grain acreage would produce 117½ million tons compared with 125 million in 1950.

## Acreage and Carryover Indicate Plenty of Hay

Hay acreage is indicated at virtually the same as in 1950. This with the large prospective carryover would provide liberal hay supplies, even if more livestock is to be fed and more than the usual proportion of the acreage were diverted to harvest for seed, for silage, or for pasture after hay needs are satisfied.

## Increase in Food Grains Expected

An increase in food grains is indicated. Winter wheat acreage was increased 6 percent; prospective spring wheat, up 18 percent. If yields of spring wheat should be at the 1945-49 average, about 1,208 million bushels of all wheat may be harvested in 1951. A record rice acreage is in prospect and output may be 8 percent above last year's big crop.

## Larger World Total of Bread Grains

World production of bread grains (wheat and rye) in 1950 was about 236 million short tons, up 2 million tons from '49. The '35-39 average was 229 million tons.

## 3-Billion-Bushel Corn Crop Indicated

Prospective plantings of corn at 1945-49 average yields would bring this year's production to about 3 billion bushels, nearly the same as last year's 3.1 billion. Average crop has been a little under 3 billion bushels.

## More Tobacco Planted

The indicated 1,745,000 acres in tobacco tops last year's acreage by about 10 percent. Fire-cured, dark

## PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	Jan. 15 1951	Feb. 15 1951	Feb. 15 1951
Wheat, bu. ....dol.	2.09	2.21	2.36
Corn, bu. ....dol.	1.54	1.60	1.71
Peanuts, lb. ....ct.	10.9	10.9	12.8
Cotton, lb. ....ct.	41.31	41.75	33.11
Potatoes, bu. ....dol.	.986	1.03	1.76
Hogs, 100 lb. ....dol.	20.00	22.00	20.90
Beef cattle, 100 lb. ...dol.	27.00	29.00	19.40
Veal calves, 100 lb. ....dol.	30.80	33.30	21.80
Lambs, 100 lb. ....dol.	30.00	33.30	21.30
Butterfat, lb. ....ct.	1/ 67.6	1/ 68.6	75.1
Milk, whsle., 100 lb. ....dol.	1/ 4.40	1/2/ 4.51	4.69
Chickens, live, lb. ....ct.	24.3	26.9	30.6
Eggs, doz. ....ct.	1/ 42.2	1/ 46.5	51.7

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

2/ Preliminary.



air-cured and cigar wrappers show little acreage change from last year. Substantial increases in flue-cured and burley; moderate increase in Maryland type; sizable reductions in acreages of cigar fillers and binders.

#### Acreage in Sugar Beets Down About 12 Percent

Sugar beet acreage, according to indicated intentions, will be reduced 12 percent from last year. But the 887,000 acres indicated will greatly exceed the 828,000 acre 10-year average.

#### 15 Percent Smaller Potato Acreage

A sharp reduction in potato acreage is indicated. The 1,590,000 acres would be 15 percent smaller than the acreage planted in '50, and 39 percent below the '40-49 average. No price support available for this year's potato crop.

#### Fewer Sweetpotatoes to be Planted This Year

Sweetpotato acreage will be cut nearly a fourth this year, according to intentions reports. The 444 thousand and acres would compare with 573 thousand last year and 672 thousand average. Some acreage will be shifted to cotton and tobacco because of relatively better prices for these crops, and because of the high cost of harvesting sweetpotatoes.

#### Reduced Soybean Acreage, Still Large

Intended planted acreage of soybeans, 13.8 million, although 6 percent below last year's, would top '40-49 average by 12 percent, and would be the third highest acreage of record. The 12.1 million acres estimated for harvest for beans at average yields, would bring this year's production to a near-record crop of 233 million bushels.

#### Brighter Prospects for Citrus

Citrus fruit production is now estimated slightly higher than a month ago--more oranges but less grapefruit, other citrus unchanged. Except for tangerines the output of each of the citrus fruits this season is expected to be larger than the previous season.

#### Four Percent More Oranges Than Last Year

Orange production (1950-51 season) at 108.2 million boxes, tops last season's crop by 4 percent and is 13 percent above average. Oranges available after March 1, 61 million boxes compared with 58 million year ago.

#### Larger Crops of Grapefruit and Lemons

Grapefruit output, estimated at 44 million boxes, is 21 percent above the '49-50 crop but 13 percent below average. Grapefruit available after March 1, 16 million boxes. Compares with 14 million boxes utilized after March 1 last year. 10 percent more lemons are expected than last year.

#### Milk Output Last Month Third from High

Milk production in February was third highest of record for the month with production per cow somewhat lower than in February last year. The 8.5 billion pounds produced compares with 8.7 billion year earlier; 10 year average, 8.2 billion pounds.

#### Fewer Layers But More Eggs Per Hen

The 5.2 billion eggs laid by farm flocks in February was down a little from a year ago, but was 17 percent above the '40-49 average. A 2 percent decrease in the number of layers was partly offset by an increase in the rate of lay.

#### Price Trends for Live Chickens and Turkeys

Farmers got an average of 26.9 cents a pound live-weight for chickens in mid-February; 24.3, month earlier; 21.8 cents year ago. Turkeys averaged 34.5 cents compared with 31.6 cents year earlier. Stocks of

dressed turkeys last of January totaled 117 million pounds compared with 138 million last year. Five year average, 110 million pounds.

#### Chickens Sold By Regions

Of the total pounds of farm chickens sold in 1950, about 29 percent came from flocks in the West North Central region, 23 percent came from the East North Central, 19 percent from the North Atlantic, 14 percent from the South Central, 9 percent from the West and 6 percent from the South Atlantic States.

#### Poultry Canned Reaches Record High for the Month

Quantity of poultry canned or used in canning during January totaled 17.4 million pounds, compared with 12 million during January last year and 11.7 million 1945-49 average. Previous high record for the month was 15.3 million pounds in January 1945.

#### Prices Received and Paid Record High

Prices received by farmers rose 4 percent mid-January to mid-February and reached record high. Prices for meat animals rose with generally smaller increases for most other things sold by farmers. February index was up from a year ago by 32 percent. Prices paid index (including interest, taxes, and farm wage rates) at 276 was also record high, up 4 points from January and 28 points from a year ago. Farmers paid higher prices for food, feeder livestock, feed, and building materials.

#### Business Continues Active

Economic activity in the Nation continues to expand. Production for defense is increasing rapidly. At the same time, output for civilian use remains high. Industrial production in January was up 20 percent from year earlier. Personal income, estimated in December at \$240.7 billion, annual rate, was \$32.3 billion above December '49.

#### Little Change in Employment

Civilians at work in February totaled 58.9 compared with 59 million in January and 57 million year ago. 2.4 million were unemployed in February compared with 4.7 million year ago.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	February 1951
Prices received by farmers....	'10-14=100	313
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes & farm wage rates.	'10-14=100	276
Parity ratio.....	'10-14=100	113
Wholesale prices of food .....	'10-14=100	1/ 295
Retail prices of food.....	'10-14=100	2/ 222
Farm wage rates .....	'10-14=100	3/ 450
Weekly factory earnings.....	'10-14=100	2/ 549
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-Feb. 1950	Jan.-Feb. 1951
Milk, (bil. lb.).....	17.8	17.5
Eggs, (bil.).....	10.4	10.2
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	4/ 592	4/ 643
Lamb & mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	4/ 51	4/ 50
Pork & lard (mil. lb.).....	4/ 1099	4/ 1238
All meats (dr. wt., mil. lb.)....	4/ 1793	4/ 1976
1/ Week ended nearest 15th of the month.		
2/ January figure.		
3/ January 1 adjusted for seasonal variation.		
4/ January total under Federal inspection.		